

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06594 152108Z

71

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 151820Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7580

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T PARIS 6594

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, JA

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU TRIP TO JAPAN

REF: A) PARIS 6228; B) TOKYO 3299

1. ALTHOUGH THE PROTOCOL PROBLEM OF THE WORDING OF THE COMMUNIQUE (REFTELS) HAS BEEN "AUTHORITATIVELY" GIVEN AS THE REASON FOR THE STATEMENTS THAT THE DATES OF POMPIDOU'S JAPAN VISIT ARE NOT YET FIXED, THE REAL REASON MAY BE THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH, AS SOME REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED. A RELIABLE JOURNALIST WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT TO USSR SAID THAT XAVIER MARCHETTI, POMPIDOU'S PRESS SECRETARY, SPOKE DURING SOVIET VISIT FIRST OF SHORT POSTPONEMENT AND THEN OF INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT. HE REMARKED THAT THE JAPAN TRIP WAS REALLY NOT IMPORTANT. IF THEY WERE TO TALK ABOUT MONEY, THAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PARIS. AS FOR POLITICS, WHO WERE THE JAPANESE? MARCHETTI ASKED RHETORICALLY. MARCHETTI GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE TRIP WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AT ALL.

2. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE FORMAL JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POMPIDOU VISIT

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ARE DESIGNED TO COVER A RETHINKING CONCERNING THE

ADVISABILITY OF THE JAPAN TRIP, GIVEN THE
PRESIDENT'S HEALTH.
STONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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